

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF GREAT **DRIFFIELD,**

FOR THE YEAR 1918.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1918.

The number of births and deaths registered show that there were 83 births and 117 deaths, compared with 104 births and 97 deaths last year, 101 births and 74 deaths in 1916, 99 births, 99 deaths in 1915, 139 births, 114 deaths in 1914, 126 births, 102 deaths in 1913.

BIRTHS. There were 35 males and 48 females compared with 55 males and 49 females last year.

The birth-rate was 13.78 per 1000 of an estimated population of 6019, the lowest recorded, last year it was 18.35, and 17.2 in 1916, the average birth-rate before the War was 22.2 per 1000.

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 17.7, and for London 16.1 per 1000.

There were 71 legitimate births (33 males and 38 females), and 12 illegitimate (2 males and 10 females.)

DEATHS. 66 males and 51 females.

The death-rate was 21.9 per 1000 of an estimated population of 5372. In 1917 it was 19.0 per 1000 and 13.7 in 1916. The high death-rate was due to Influenza, which caused 23 deaths and Pneumonia 10. Last year there were only 2 deaths each from Influenza and Pneumonia.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 17.6 per 1000, and for London 18.9.

INFANT MORTALITY. Under one year there were 9 deaths (5 males and 4 females) compared with 10.8 and 12 for the three previous years.

The death-rate per 1000 births was 108.4, last year it was 96.1. The legitimate rate was 84.5, the illegitimate .250.

The infantile death-rate for England and Wales, was 97, for London 107, for the 148 Smaller Towns 94.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH. Measles 2 (1 male and 1 female), 0.37 per 1000. Whooping Cough (1 male), 0.18 per 1000. Influenza 23 (17 males and 6 females), 4.28 per 1000 (2 cases in 1917.) Erysipelas (1 male) 0.18 per 1000. Pulmonary Tuberculosis 5 (4 male and 1 female), 0.93 per 1000, last year 10 cases (7 Pulmonary and 3 other forms). Cancer 12 (6 male and 6 female), 2.2 per 1000 (9 cases in 1917). Organic Heart Disease 14 (10 males and 4 females), 2.6 per 1000 (14 cases in 1917). Bronchitis 7 (4 males and 3 females), 1.3 per 1000 (10 cases in 1917). Pneumonia 10 (4 males and 6 females) 1.86 per 1000 (2 cases in 1917). Nephritis 4 (1 male and 3 females) 0.7 per 1000. Congenital Debility 3 (1 male and 2 females) 0.5 per 1000 (5 cases in 1917). Violence 2 females, 0.37 per 1000 (2 cases in 1917.) Other Defined Diseases 33 (16 males and 17 females.) Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) nil.

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 229 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, 3 Military, compared with 38 last year.

Measles (2 Military)	-	-	195,	compared with	3	last year.
Diphtheria	-	-	3,	"	12	"
Puerperal Fever	-	-	2,	"	1	"
Tuberculosis of Lungs (1 Military)	-	-	9,	"	8	"
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	-	-	4,	"	6	"
Scarlet Fever	-	-	12,	"	6	"
Typhoid Fever	-	-	1,	"	Nil	"
Erysipelas	-	-	2,	"	1	"
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1,	"	Nil	"

MEASLES. During the Epidemic of Measles from January 9th to November 19th, (which commenced on December 24th in a Private School, the case being imported) there were 195 cases, 96 males and 99 females; the disease was at its height in March when there were 88 cases and declined in May to 2 cases, but increased in June to October. In October there were 21 cases and 6 in November.

The death-rate was 1.02% only two deaths having occurred at ages of 16 and 30 years. The low death-rate was due to the relatively small number of young children attacked, and to the mild type of the disease. The fatality is greatest in the second year of life.

The Sequelæ of Measles are Tuberculosis, Tuberculous Glands, Chronic Deafness and sometimes Blindness.

DIPHTHERIA. Three cases occurred which were isolated in the Hospital and at Home. No infection was communicated from one to the other apparently as they suffered at different times, and their homes were in different parts of the town. The disease is endemic.

SCARLET FEVER. There were 12 cases isolated in the Hospital mostly. No death.

The case of Typhoid Fever was traced to a Public Institution outside the district.

INFLUENZA. During the epidemic from October to January 1st 1919, there were 24 deaths from Influenza and 6 from Pneumonia, a total of 30. At first it was mild, an epidemic Catarrh, and not until Nov. 6th was there a death from Influenza; about this time soldiers coming home on leave from the front, and the Military from the Aerodrome where the epidemic was severe, especially among the Americans, introduced a more virulent type of the disease, and there were 16 deaths by the end of the month from Influenza and five from Pneumonia. The last two deaths occurred on Jan. 1st 1919, since then no deaths occurred and no case of Pneumonia was notified.

The Schools were closed as there is no doubt that the chief method of the spread of the disease is by personal contact with persons suffering from it or those not sufficiently convalescent, and the closer the contact the greater the danger, hence the risks of overcrowding in houses, public places of assembly &c. Notwithstanding these risks dancing went on every night in the public halls, the local authority having no jurisdiction, the dances being Military. Towards the end of December the dances stopped and so did the Influenza.

COMPLICATIONS. 14 cases were complicated with Pneumonia, 2 with Bronchitis, and the others died from the toxic effects of the disease.

SPECIAL SYMPTOMS. Epistaxis was very common and sometimes very persistent, Heliotrope Cyanosis (all cases in which this appeared were fatal), Pulmonary Œdema, Septic Pneumonia, Cough very frequently present due to relaxed state of Mucosa.

SEQUELÆ. Neurasthenic condition long continued with great mental depression, and bodily lassitude, Insomnia, Vaso-ataxia (flushing and burning feeling, pruritus, perspiration).

The Sanitary Inspector reports that there were 70 houses inspected, 13 dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of Infectious disease, 4 dwelling-houses found overcrowded, 17 defective privies and ashpits were inspected and remedied. No new ashpits were made, 1 ashpit was covered, there were 4 new w.c.'s made, 6 house drains inspected and remedied, 1 new drain was laid, 7 nuisances were found from offensive trades and abated, 10 informal notices were served and complied with, 8 nuisances were found and abated.

The number of Cowsheds and Dairies on register is 16 and the number of Cows 112. 85 Visits were made to them and no defects were found.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. 11 on Register and 70 Visits were made to them. Two Common Lodging Houses are on the register and 20 Visits were made. Canal Boats inspected 25.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act 3 dwelling-houses were inspected and the defects remedied without the making of Closing Orders. Defective Closet Accommodation was found.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BURGESS.

DRIFFIELD,
10TH JUNE, 1919.

